WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1895.

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#### Nicaragua's Counter Proposal.

Great Britain gave Nicaragua seven weeks in which to comply with her recent demands. The time, it is said, has already expired, and meanwhile Nicaragua has made a response that was not a direct compliance, except as to one feature of the demand, which, as she explains, she had complied with before receiving the ultimatum.

Nicaragua says that she had voluntarily annulled the decree of exile against British subjects; and that this is the fact can easily be credited, apart from any exact evidence submitted, since it is known that the decree had been cancelled in regard to banished American citizens who were charged with the same offence.

For the rest. Nicaragua, instead of paying the \$75,000 demanded by Great Britain, proposes arbitration, and agrees, it is said, to make any fair settlement of such claims as an impartial commission shall declare to be well founded. This response seems to be amicable and proper, and it now remains to be seen whether it will be accepted. If it is, the seven weeks within which England was going to have the whole business settled will lengthen considerably, and the supposed ultimatum may leave room for a series of post-ultimatums.

#### Japan Makes Peace.

There are two remarkable features in the treaty of peace which, on the authority of the son-in-law of Li HUNG CHANG, is said to have been signed on Tuesday by the plenipotentiaries of China and Japan. We refer the moderation ultimately evinced by the Tokio Government in the matter of a pecunjary indemnity, and the formation of an offensive and defensive alliance between the two empires. This means that the two great powers of the far East have agreed upon the programme of "Asia for the Asiatics." and that with a view to its fulfilment the Mikado has consented not to cripple his prospective ally's financial resources, thus leaving them applicable to thorough military and naval reforms.

Of course, China acknowledges the independence of Corea, and makes over to Japan the island of Formosa in perpetuity. These, it was known, would be indispensable conditions of any treaty. The amount of the money indemnity is cut down to \$100,000,000, presumably computed in gold; but we suppose that the Tokio Government will accept the equivalent in silver at the market price of the white metal. This sum is less than half of the original demand, which was for a number of taels worth about \$215,000,000 in gold. China should experience no great difficulty in borrowing the needed funds, especially when it comes to be understood that through an intimate alliance with her progressive neighbor she may be reasonably expected to enter on the path of regeneration. The retention by Japan of the conquered places, and especially of a part of the extramural province of Liau-tung, including the peninsula on which is situated the naval arsenal of Port Arthur, may be looked upon as a guarantee not merely of the payment of the greatly curtailed indemnity, but of the sincerity and permanence of the stipulated league. So long as Japan holds Port Arthur, especially if she also retains Weihai-wei, at the southern end of the entrance to the Gulf of Pe-chi-li, it will be the interest of the Manchu dynasty to cooperate with the Mikado for mutual protection against European aggression, and to accept his advice touching the methods of developing China's industrial capabilities and means of self-defence.

This conclusion of an offensive and defensive alliance between Japan and China suggests comparison with the master stroke of diplomacy by which BISMARCK, after humilfating and isolating Austria, formed a close league with her, thus securing her from internal disintegration and shielding central Europe against Russian attack. But the HAPSBURGS at Vienna had but little to gain through combination with the Berlin Government, compared with the immense value of the moral and material support which the Manchu dynasty at Pekin can obtain from the Mikado. The knowledge that it will have behind it the fleets and armies of its Japanese ally will discourage the insurrections which otherwise would have rendered its position at Pekin untenable, and it will no longer be necessary to appeal to European powers which might have exacted a large price for their assistance. On the other hand, Japan, by propping up the Manchu reigning family deprives Russia, England, and France of any pretext for intervention. Moreover, it assures the stability of the official machinery, which, in the opinion of Tokio onlookers, who understand the Chinese far better than Europeans can, may, if thoroughly cleansed and properly directed, be effectively employed in the work of national rehabilitation. The Japanese themselves have known how to combine the study of the ethics of CONFUCIUS with a mastery of the utilitarian triumphs of Western civilization; and they believe that it simply would be requisite to recast the curricula of the Chinese schools, and change the subjects of the successive official examinations, to turn the Chinese powers of acquisition into the path which the Japanese mind has pursued for a quarter of a century with such astonishing results. It must be remembered that the Mikado's subjects have already undertaken in Corea a regenerative task incomparably more difficult than any which China could offer; for whatever signs of misgovernment and decadence are observable in the Celestial Empire, these are insignificant compared with the proofs of utter ruin everywhere encountered in the Hermit Kingdom.

Mr. HENRY NORMAN, the author of "The predicted that the Japanese would studiously avoid overthrowing the Manchu Emperor of China, and would aim to use him as a reformatory instrument, as they are using the Corean sovereign, declares that the Mikado's subjects have no doubt of their he quotes a leading Tokio journal, the Hochi Shimburi, which said recently: 'The Chinese are the worst-governed people in the world, and consequently the easiest to bring under a foreign yoke. Besides, they have no strong national pride, like that entertained by the French, the Germans, the English, or the Japanese. TALLEYRAND's saying that 'Italy is a mere geographical may be applied to China with ! much greater force. The Chinese, un- Colonel, corroborates the declarations of

der the mild and civilized rule of Japan would soon learn that they will fare better thus than under their old masters. That would assuredly be the case in respect of material prosperity, and an improvement in such an important matter would in itself satisfy them." When this conviction was expressed by the Tokio newspaper, it was assumed that it would be necessary to occupy Pekin, expel the Manchu rulers, and treat Chinaas a talnula rasa, or blank page. Now, as we have seen, the Mikado. wishing to avoid complications with the European powers, has decided to attempt the reorganization of the Middle Kingdom through the existing mandarinate and its Manchu head. Should the experiment fail through the inadequacy of the instruments. Japan will doubtless seize an opportune moment for discarding them and

for assuming the direct regulation of the

Celestial Empire.

In one way or another Japan intends that China shall be rescued from European domination, and made to turn her vast resources to account. What this may mean for the rest of the world is set forth in a striking passage of Mr. HENRY NORMAN'S book: We are invited to "consider what a Japan-governed China would be. Think what the Chinese are. Think of their powers of silent endurance under suffering and cruelty; think of their patient perseverance, their slow, dogged persistence, their recklessness of life. Fancy this people ruled by a nation of born organizers, who, half allied to them, would understand their temperament and their habits. The Oriental, with his power of retaining health under conditions under which no European could live, with his savage daring when roused, with his inborn cunning, lacks only the superior knowledge of civilization to be the equal of the European in warfare as well as in industry." Hitherto it has been as true of the United States, as Mr. NORMAN says it is of England, that men do not realize that "in a Japanese dynasty such a civilization would exist; we have not yet learned to look upon the Mikado as a civilized monarch, as we look upon the Czar. Yet such he is, undoubtedly. Under him the dreams of the supremacy of the yellow race in Asia, Europe, and even Africa, to which Dr. PEARSON and others have given expression, would be no longer mere nightmares. Instead of speculating as to whether England or Germany or Russia is to be the next world ruler, we might have to learn that Japan was on its way to that position."

The Tammany Society, the controlling force in the Tammany Hall organization, elected its Sachems for the year 1805 on Monday night. The gentlemen are well known among politicians as of the circle of friends of RICHARD CROKER, and their election, as we have heretofore stated, foreshadows the return of that gentleman to the active leadership of Tammany in September. Seven of the thirteen Sachems chosen on Monday night were candidates for office at the recent election, and four of these were defeated. The policy of Tammany Hall, as now indicated, is to depend for success in November on the fidelity of its own loyal supporters, and to eschew compromises of a harmonizing or temporizing character with those who, at the last election, opposed it. It means, in other words, that Tammany will "go it alone," without new allies, though not

without an access of new members. The previous performances of each reform administration in this city have almost invariably assured the return of its opponents to power at the next succeeding election. The voters, deceived by false promises and deluded by fraudulent misrepresentations, turn again to a frank partisan administration as the best, encouraged in so doing by their natural allegiance to the Democracy heretofore prominent in our politics. The elements of disentisfaction and disappointment under reform rule are not now lacking, but the customary revulsion toward Tammany may, for exceptional

reasons, not be so soon forthcoming. The Democratic party does not enjoy the favor or confidence of the voters. So far from being an element of strength to Tammany Hall, it is an element of weakness. The penalty for sustaining Democratic candidates at a popular election in the United States, is the same in the city of New York as it is in Chicago, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and elsewhere: defeat. Though the leaders of Tammany have been conspicuous opponents of the policies which have wrought havor and brought disaster upon the Democracy, they cannot separate themselves from the party's fortune, aggravated as it is by the odious and indefensible income tax, and the abounding calamity of a President "at large," yet charged, politi-cally, to New York. "The invading force is of our own political household," said BOURKE CECKRAN in Chicago. It is so to-day in this city, and with the tide setting strongly against the Democracy, the burden of fighting its battles is irksome and perilous.

Heretofore, the term of the Mayor being two years, the off-year election has very often gone for the benefit of Tammany. The members of that organization, like all good fighters, are strongest in defeat; and the temporary loss of the public patronage has not operated adversely when a Mayor was to be elected in the contest of the year succeeding. But Mr. STRONG is in office, not for two, but for three years. The unusual and summary Power of Removal bill has given him resources greater than have ever been possessed by any previous Mayor. The only political offices in the municipality to be filled in November, those of the Register and the County Clerk, are now held by Tammany men. Nor is the fact to be neglected that the various outside organizations which united with the Republicans for STRONG, are largely composed of political mercenaries and camp followers attracted by hope of patronage. They are not likely to desert in November, 1895, a Mayor who will be in office until Jan. 1, 1898. If they should do this, the regular reformers certainly would not. They can always be

found where offices are plentiest. While it is true that reproach and discredit have been brought upon the so-called cause of reform by many of the acts per-Peoples and Politics of the Far East," who formed, obligations neglected, and appointments made since Jan. I, it is undeniable that Mayor STRONG is rather popular with the voters, and that he has sustained his prestige by showing unusual farsightedness for a reformer. He has found it easy to turn a political corner sharply. ability to reorganize China. On this point | and to face about with great spryness. He has shown this conspicuously on the subject of Sunday liquor selling, and since the disclosure of the incompetency of DAMSEN, he has peremptorily refused to make any appointments for the German-American Reform Union, shrewdly disengaging himself from an evident embarrassment, and visibly lightening the labors of his supporters.

While perhaps in these and other respects the conduct of Mayor STRONG, the Ohio

PLATT, and of the spick-and-span reformers who are fighting PLATT pail and knuckle. that STRONG is a guileful and untrustworthy reformer, they give no promise of recruits for Tammany Hall at the next election, whatever may be the result in 1896 and

thereafter. The choice of Sachems at Tammany Hall on Saturday means a closing of the door in the face of all Democratic guerrillas, a hardening of the lines of the Tammany or ganization against malcontents and intruders, and a positive and creditable deter mination to fight the battle for municipal supremacy in November under the leader ship of a chieftain whose loyalty to Tam many has never been open to any question.

#### Rapid Transit and the Legislature

If we were actuated by any feeling to ward the Rapid Transit Commissioners other than personal esteem, and regret concerning their scheme so fraught with grave and damaging consequences to our people we could do them no greater ultimate harm than to help on their kalebloscopic and costly muddling, in the hope to have their inconsiderate and impossible plans carried to the utmost limit. Should the millions of our taxpayers be sunk in the abyss of dire and dismal failure, and should their public condemnation be at all commensurate with the folly and its consequences, nothing would be left to be de sired by the most rapacious hostility.

But we have been controlled by more important considerations. In the first place, we are uncompromisingly opposed to Albany usurpation in our local affairs, in viclation of the essential rights of Democratic-Republican communities. To our city thus invaded it is a tyrannical and degrading assumption. The principle of home rule is at the basis of public liberty. The millions to be expended in this instance are the money of our people, and yet our Albany masters say that they shall not expend it by their own chosen agents, but by individuals turust upon them by the Legislature. Next, the expenditure of fifty milin the existing condition of the city's finances, absorbing the debtcreating power to the utmost constitutional limit for this one purpose, to the exclusion of all other public works, appeared to us to be excessively unwise and reckless. Then the obstinate determination of the Commissioners to risk this enormous sum on an underground railway, in view of the universal experience proving that mode of city travel to be everywhere a pecuniary failure, appears blindly unreasonable. The failure in other cities of that manner of transit was supplemented by our own recent experience, when the former Commissioners found themselves unable to obtain a single responsible bid for an underground road under the most favorable circumstances, in compe-

tition with the elevated and cable lines. We knew, too, from a careful examination of the subject, that the proposed tunnel road could not be built, in view of the engineering obstacles and difficulties, for fifty millions, or near that sum; and we felt that the prosecution of the scheme, in the manner proposed, would be a loss of the entire capital. with nothing but a worthless excavation to show for it. We desired to secure for our people the best means of rapid transit, not the worst, with all that makes the surface of the earth agreeable, and not an unnatural, cavernous tunnel, with its unwholesome, depressing, and repelling incidents. We are not prepared to exchange the open sky, the light of day, the genial sunshine, and the living panorama for any subway substitute. Moreover, the recent develop ment of the city's financial condition has awakened public alarm at the further prosecution of this wild and wasteful scheme. The controversy between Mayor STRONG and Comptroller Fitch has resulted in demonstrating the inability of the city to provide the fifty millions involved.

But the Commissioners are seeking to extend the limit of fifty millions by an addition of five millions. They now ask the Legislature to remove the barrier of expenditure and to open the door, as we foretold would be the case, to all future requirements of the wild undertaking. The city is limited in its debt-creating ability to ten per cent. on the assessed valuation of its real estate. This assessed valuation is \$1,-613,057,735, consequently the city cannot incur an indebtedness beyond \$161,305,735. It appears from both the Mayor and Comptroller's communications that the net funded debt on Jan. 1, 1895, was \$104,078,820.51. This left a margin for further bonding of about fifty-seven millions. Next we have to consider an approximate statement of the city's liabilities on Jan. 1, 1895, for public works and improvements, the expense of which is payable out of the proceeds of stock and bonds, not yet issued, which was estimated at a further sum of \$19.879.660. The improvements involved in these socalled liabilities are in round numbers twenty millions. They are meritorious, and have been authorized by the Legislature with the approval of the authorities. The Board of Estimate has already authorized bonds to be issued for \$7,020,616.88 thereof. No reason has been advanced why the whole amount should not be put out. As a specimen, there is included therein \$3,000,000 for the land required for the Jerome Park reservoir. The Commisioners of Appraisal were appointed some time ago, and their duty only involves the estimate of the value of land held by a few owners. The report, therefore, may be presented any day, and the amount adjudged would be payable in four months thereafter. Deducting the amount of these "liabilities," the net amount of debt that can be created under the constitutional limit would be about thirty-seven millions. Where are the underground fifty millions to come from?

But this does not tell the whole story. The present Legislature has authorized improvements which, when executed, will call for ten millions additional, including five millions for school improvements and three millions for small parks, and it is not through yet with its bountiful additions to the debt. The Boulevard on the side of the Harlem River, for which plans are preparing, is estimated anywhere up to fifteen millions. The money for the plans has been voted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. We must also remember the development and improvement of the new parks and parkways north of the Harlem River, estimated at ten millions more. The Constitution expressly provides that all indebtment in excess of ten per cent. on the assessed value of the real estate "shall be absolutely void," except for revenue bonds in anticipation of the collection of taxes, or for water supply. The annual accretion of the revenues of the Sinking Fund, in view of all these considerations, and the current demands on it, cannot be counted on to reduce the debt; and it is obvious that the present amount of the debt must be constantly increasing independently of the rapid transit scheme. The reformers have not put on the brakes

be to open the valves and "let her go" in all directions. In view her go" of these considerations, can the Commissioners consider themselves a living concern, with any future possibilities? It will be remembered that at a recent meeting of the Commissioners of Estimate and Apportionment, the Counsel to the Corpora tion charged that the high rate of assessed valuation which had prevailed, was " fraud," and the Comptroller agreed with him in that regard. Consequently, it is clear that any important immediate increase of valuations, and a larger margin

for the debt, are out of the question. There are two important consideration that the Legislature should bear in mind in determining the propriety of the proposed legislation now presented by the Commissioners' lawyers. These are, that a majority of the voters at the late election did not vote in favor of rapid transit construction by the city, or in favor of the law naming and imposing the Commissioners. If the latter issue had been presented, the scheme would not have received ten thousand votes. The total vote cast for candidates for Governor at that election was 270,160. The vote in favor of rapid transit construction by the city, with all the deluding statements in operation on every hand, among others the bait to laboring men that they were to have unlimited and immediate employment, was 132,647, and the total of those who either voted directly against it, or refused to vote for it, was consequently 135,081.

According to all previous legislation, when a question arises of incurring such an unu sual debt, for which the assent of the taxpayers is required, all those not voting for the burden have been, by law, counted against it. At the late election, in addition to the confusion arising from voting thirteen bal lots, including constitutional amendments and rapid transit committal, there was a general belief that not voting for the latter was equivalent to voting against it, and the ballots were very generally torn up. The project is said to have been carried by a technical construction of the law; but the substantial fact remains that a majority of the voters did not declare in its favor. The Rapid Transit act of 1894 (chapter 752) distinetly provided against the opportunity to vote on the various provisions of the law. It declared (section 12) that ballots should be printed, one-half of which should read "For municipal construction of rapid transit road," and half against that propo sition. Consequently, the only issue voted on was that of "rapid transit at the ex pense of the city." The legislative majority have long treated

this metropolis as legitimate prey for every sort of aggression. They have given away its franchises for surface railroads to favor ites and coparceners, and for nearly half a century down to a recent period there has not been a valuable privilege belonging to the city, conferred by legislative grant, in which the rights of the city have been respected. It was estimated by a late Comptroller that if the surface railroad franchises alone had been disposed of at their value for the benefit of the city, they would have paid the entire debt; so that our revenues, pledged to the redemption of the debt, would be free to reduce taxation annually. This city embraces a very large constituency, the full extent of which is not generally appreciated. Its total vote at the last election was greater than the combined total votes of the State of Alabama with 66 counties and the State of Florida with 45 counties, on the vote for Governor, and larger than the entire vote of California with 57 counties. It exceeded the united votes of the States of Maine and Connecticut. It was in excess of the total vote of five States, namely: New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Nevada. This city is the commercial and financial centre of the continent.

It has been established satisfactorily that our citizens are capable of self-government. Mayor STRONG has well emphasized the intensity of the feeling of our people on the question of Albany dictation in his recent tter to Mr. O'GRADY Chairman of the Committee on Cities of the Assembly. "Unless my observation as to the temper and sentiment of the people of this city is entirely at fault," he said, "there is an almost universal feeling in favor of what has been denominated home rule. There is a profound belief in the community that the city of New York, by its chosen officers, is in a much better position to judge as to how its money should be spent than any other body of men can be, no matter how wise or intelligent." He protested against the passage of mandatory bills by the Legislature, "leaving no discretion whatever to the authorities of the city." He animadverted with much force upon the greatness of the task "in the administration of the finances and business of a large corporation like the city of New York.' That "it must be proceeded with cautiously, carefully, and with foresight." He concluded with this stern appeal: "I there fore protest, in the name of the city, against the adoption by the Legislature of mandatory laws imposing on the city the expenditure of moneys, in large or small sums, and leaving to the officers of the city no opportunity to exercise their judgment or discre tion as to the amount to be expended."

The Chamber of Commerce and its highstepping offspring, the Committee of 70, have also resolved some high-toned italicized and exclamatory sentiments in favor of "home rule." They would not have Po lice Commissioners or magistrates named in the pending acts of the Legislature under any circumstances, even if the nominees were extra-sized angels with the wides wings. It is "the sacred principle" at stake for which they indomitably stand up and are ready to fight to the last extremity

of verbose intimidation. Six citizens of this State, some of whom do not even reside in this city, have been made Commissioners of Rapid Transit by an act of the Legislature, with power to expend fifty millions of dollars in their absolute discretion. The Mayor and Comptroller are ex-officio members of the Commission, but with practically no control, as the votes of the six other Commissioners are decisive. To give an idea of the mandatory and despotic character of the act which created them, we quote the following: I. "The Board of Estimate and Apportionment, upon the requisition of the said Board of Rapid Transit Railroad Commissioners, shall direct the Comptroller, and it shall thereupon become his duty, to issue bonds of said city to the extent of fifty millions of dollars." II. "The proceeds of said bonds shall be expended for the purposes for which the same are issued upon vouchers certified by said Board of Rapid Transit Commissioners." Thus the Commissioners are absolute masters of the city's exchequer, so that they can at their sovereign will command the issuing of bonds without regard to the situation of the municipal treas ury, or the requirement for other purposes, no matter how essential. It is not possible to add to the aggravation of the situation as thus created by the Legislature, at the anywhere; the determination appears to behest of the ingenious gentlemen who

framed the statute for their own purposes. How can the regular officers charged with the financial administration of the city manage its affairs and be responsible for municipal government with such a supreme power over them overwhelmingly controlling its finances ?

But this imperial body of Commissioners

exist in splendid style. They have their grand offices, their body of official satellites of every description, and they have their being as a separate and independent government in the city administration. Under the act of 1894 they have the right to use their own seal separate and different from that of the city, the insignia of corporate existence. By one of the proposed amendments of the act, now before the Legislature, they are to have the right to sue in the name of the city, for any purpose arising under their ex-There is no limit upon their expenditure for expenses or in the dispensation of appointments. The most important member of the Commission, at once its stage manager and star performer, resides in Brooklyn. He is, of course, not a taxpayer, and is not affected by the pecuniary conse quences of the measure. The leading counsel of the Commission is a resident and regulator of the same city and county. The spirit of lofty supremacy asserted by the Commissioners is unprecedented in assumption, and extends to the understrappers of the Commission, who are in evidence on all sides. Their scribe is a nimble nincompoop who has his fingers in every civic mess. H is a reformer at large, undertaking to instruct our citizens in every branch of civic duty with a pompous parade of impudent pretension. They are all gentlemen of lounging leisure, maintained at the public expense with large salaries. The law is so constituted that, under the contract they propose to make, the Commissioners can be continued in office during its existence from thirty-five to fifty years, with provision for renewals of like effect without limit. There appears to be nothing certain in their action, except that what they do to-day they will probably undo at the earliest opportunity. Their latest invasion, providing for an appropriation of Broadway, to an extent injurious to its entire business interests, destroying all the useful and nec essary vaults now in use in front of the stores, exhibits the species of despotic sway they mean to exercise.

But they do not mean to give up their job They evidently intend to sacrifice all other considerations to maintain their official hold. On the 28th of December last they appointed a body of experts to consider and report upon the plans then proposed, consisting of Messrs, ABRAM S. HEWITT, THOMAS C. CLARKE, CHARLES SOOYSMITH, WILLIAM H. BURR, and OCTAVE CHANUTE, all of them practical engineers, except Mr. Hew-ITT, who, although educated to the profession, has not exercised it. But he was the chief originator of the project for rapid transit; he has had special experience in the line of the investigation, and is a gentleman entitled to high consideration. This committee acted on the theory that the main object of "the extraordinary legislation" appointing the Commission was to secure rapid transit. They made their report on the 9th of January last, and one of the most important of their recommendations was that an extension of the present Manhattan Elevated Railroad should be provided for to meet the immediate demand, and that the tunnel scheme should be deferred until a later period.

This conclusion was regarded as rank treason by the Commissioners, and was at once rejected on the ground that it would interfere with the success of their plans, by detracting from the value of their proposed tunnel, by showing it to be wholly unnecessary at present, even with their claims is to its advantages.

Mr. HEWITT was taken aback by this extraordinary development. In reply he came before the public with a statement. He said: "If the utilization of existing agencies should have the effect of securing rapid accommodation promptly, and should render unnecessary the expenditure of public money, the Commission would de serve the thanks of the community for such a happy and satisfactory solution of the "In other words," said Mr. HEWITT, "it seems to me that resort to the expenditure of public money will be justified only in case the Commission shall, after in telligent efforts, fail to secure satisfactory rapid transit by other means; and I believe that this approval of the Legislature and of the citizens of New York was given only with the expectation that the power to resort to municipal capital in the last emergency might have the effect of making it unneces sary to exercise the power at all by forcing the existing agencies to provide immediate and adequate accommodations." HEWITT said much more in opposition to the evident purpose to entertain no view that would militate against their tenure of office, or the spending of the fifty millions.

The Commissioners now appear through their counsel before the Legislature with about seventy amendments to the law, one authorizing them to exceed the fifty millions of dollars, and all of them designed to aggrandize and make the Commission a still more exalted and permanent power over this city. Among the minor amendments, here is a small one:

"Any contractor acting under a contract made in pursuance of this act, or any act supplementary hereto or amendatory hereof, may, with the approval of the Board, lay upon or over the surface of any street, emporary tramways to be used only for the removal of excavated materials or the transportation of ma terial for use in construction.

Imagine these dirt-car tramways in Broad-

way and the other principal streets, in operation for the purpose of carting away rabbish from excavations! But we cannot go into the details of this amazing mass of dexterous concoction. Was there ever greater self-delusion than these Commissioners exhibit? In view of the fact that the limit of the city's debt-creating power has got down to its present low standard, and is likely to go ower, and that the financial enormity has become impossible, is it not time that this farce should be immediately played out and the curtain rung down? We have had one tiresome act with the previous Board of Rapid Transit Commissioners costing the city nearly \$300,000 for doing nothing, and the expense is not ended yet. It is only a few days ago that a bill fo counsel fees amounting to \$4,500 was presented, and it is now pending before the Board of Estimate. This is only a small part. of the professional services rendered in showing the old Board of Commissioners how they could hold on to their official tenure without doing anything, at an attractive per diem compensation, while dispensing lots of valuable patronage. The Law Department of the city costs the taxpayers over \$230,000 annually, enough to provide over twenty counsel at \$10,000 per annum. The Commissioners to revise the statutes, exercising a higher prerogative than that possessed by any other three men in this country, or any other, that of suspending the most important provisions of the

Constitution at will, receive only \$250 per

month each. The former Board of Rapid Transit Commissioners also had the right to ask legal aid of the head of the Law Depart ment and his corps of expert associates, without charge; but this would not com port with the accepted mode of spending the seople's money by commission. They must have their own special Board of high-priced

legal gentlemen at their beck and call. The continuance of this Commission car accomplish nothing practical, and will only be a source of expense for the benefit of enter prising lawyers and engineers, and a lot of costly official drones. We have a reform Government now. The first Rapid Transit act, under which we obtained all the rapid transit we at present possess, was passed in 1875 in full recognition of home rule. It applied to all counties of the State and provided that Rapid Transit Commisoners for the respective cities should be appointed by the Mayors thereof. The true course for the Legislature, now that the whole subject of rapid transit is before them, is to amend the title of the act of 1894 by applying it to the whole State, and adopt ing the first section so as to legislate out of office the costly gentlemen so ambitious to rule the city of New York as Commissioners and providing that the work of rapid transit shall be secured by the appropriate executive department of the respective cities or by Commissioners to be appointed by the Mayors thereof.

Our Common Council, the Board of Aldermen, have officially announced the fact of Mayor Strong's slander of the preceding administration in connection with the city finances No further formality can properly delay Mr. STRONG'S public apology to those whom he has slandered. This is not a partisan nor a bipartisan nor a non-partisan duty; but simply the obligation of the gentleman. Mr. STRONG can make his apology personal to Mr. Gilnoy or to the Tammany organization, whichever h prefers, but it should be prompt and prominent

It looks as though the men would have to reform. The way the women are tending to live up to the masculine standard shows that if the men would avoid having the women copy them in any undesirable respect, they will have to change their own habits.

PARKHURST has given up STRONG. Alas, we can't say the Mayor didn't deserve it. Thos wonderful non-partisan professions have turned out to be humbug.

So far as we see, there cannot be any ob tection to the organization of a team of American college athletes to go over to Athens next year to take part in the revival of the Olympic games. The programme for the festival has not yet been got up, but, as we understand the plan, it is to consist of both ancient and modern feats of science and strength, with, perhaps, some brain labor. We would rather like to see a picked team from Columbia, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and other colleges go over there and try conclusions with the Greeks, all the members of it being familiar with the Greek language as spoken at Athens. If the Hellenes were to beat the Americans there would be happiness in Greece, and if the Americans took all the prizes they would be welcomed home were to beat the Americans in foot races, wrest ling matches, leaping, baseball, throwing the javelin or the quoit, driving a chariot, playing craps, or delivering an oration. It would be a prodigious thing for our own land if the Amer can collegians were to come home wearing the wreath from the Olympian olive tree. There would be a procession in New York; there would be a racket from Stanford University to Dart-

We would like to see our athletic champion matched against the modern tireeks, and we do not see that there can be any good objection to the organization of an American party for the Olympic games of 1896.

Until last month western Kansas and Nebraska had suffered from a severe drought, which ruined the crops for two years. During all that time we have not heard of those "arti ficial rain promoters" who had previously boasted of the success of their experiments They raked in a good many dollars from the needy farmers, and they begged Congress to give them an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to save the country. These fellows were charlatans. During the whole of the long period of drought there ledger.

We would rather that the custom of hanging Jupas Iscanior, the effigy of him, on Easter Day, should not be introduced into this country. We have heard once or twice, in other years, of small illustrations of the custom by pious Russians here; but the affair of Sunday last at Youngstown, O., where delegates from many places gathered to witness the hanging during the Easter ceremonies held by members of the orthodox Greek Church, was large enough to attract notice beyond the place at which it occurred.

We do not want this anti-religious alien revolting, and absurd custom to spread in the United States. It stimulates had passions stire up feelings of revenge, and incites to hatred of the Jewish race. The two countries in which it has been most in vogue, Spain and Russia, are the two in which the Jews have had the hardest time. We must not permit the creation of a spirit of persecution in free America

It is no apology for the custom that the Jews here still keep up the custom of hanging their ancient enemy, HAMAN, the effigy of him, every year. That custom is passing away amo lightened American Jews, and is rather an annual farce than anything else

Though the name of Junas Iscanior is justly held in detestation by all Christendom, readers of the Gospels are aware that they are free from denunciation of him. The several apostolic nar ratives of his treason are sorrowful rather than wrathful, and this is the true Christian spirit in regard to the deed of the wretched man, who when he saw the result of that deed, repented o it, cast away the price of blood, and hanged himself.

The incidents of the Youngstown affair, as given in our despatch from there in Monday's SUN, were disgraceful to those who participated in it. They were a wrong against true Chris-

## Inaccurate Types Perhaps,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In a review in Sunday's SUN of the Standard Dictionary, which I am glad to see The Sec. as I recently bought a copy, I find several times as I recently bought a copy, I find several times the word "autonyme," singular and plural; but I do not find it in the Standard. What doe "autonyme" mean? Dictionaty. which I am glad to see THE SUN recommends autonyme" mean? Newauk, April 15.

Pseudonyme, a feigned name, a false name autonyme, a real name, one's own name; antonyme, a word with an opposite, a contradic tory meaning; synonyme, a word with the same meaning; anonymous, having no name, nameless. There they all are, ancient and modern, Our Newark correspondent can take his choice.

### Who Was the Third Mant To the Entrop of The Sux-Sir; I find this in The Sus of April 13:

When Col. Henri Watterson of Kentucky and Field arise at Murat Hubbien I, then of Onlo, came to the Ly in the pears of later freshness, they sould not stuff they bad got an experience of efficients execu-ent throads the Howevy after dark, at a line of the ght when pearlism, dancing, and founding layer green throads. Will Tim Ses be kind enough to be more explicit and say who the "experienced citizen" was who completed so distinguished a trio? Historias.

# W. L. Strong and Shamus O'Brica.

To the Engine of The Sux-Sir: At a regular needing of the Anti-Tanimany Democracy of the Sinth Assembly district, held at their rooms, 5 Abingm square, on the evening of the 12th inst., you able editorial in reference to the flox. Journal of Strices was read, and, on motion a vote of thanks was extended to you for the able and accurate manner in which you noted the present political situation, thus giving a renewed exemplification of the fact that your old and reliable journal has a just and honest claim to its statement that "it shines for all."

Jour J. Bernnar, Chairman.

### INCOME TAX AND RAILWAY STOCKS. Land an Inseparable Factor in Ballway Divi-

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: I AM BO lawyer, but in view of the decision of the United States Court declaring rents and incomes from land or real estate not subject to the income tax. I am moved to ask THE SUN and the lawyers how, in the face of this decision, stocks and bonds of railways can possibly be taxed? The railways of the United States occupy at least 1,500,000 acres of land besides their immense land subsidies! They are apportioned and taxed by the State as real estate at so much per mile, equivalent to so much per acre. The stock and bonds represent the land and equipments that are absolutely necessary in or to render the real estate or land of any value to the investor. They take precisely the place of rent or income from the farm which alone renders the farm or house and lot of value. The team, the dairy, with all the modern improved appliances to render the farm of value—the buildings, with brown stone, furnished with all the modern splendid appointments in order to make the city or village lot valueable—are certainly no more necessary than are the equipments of the railroad, represented by its stocks and bonds, in order to render its taxed real estate valuable.

Why, then, and how, can these stocks and bonds be taxed, while rent or income from other real estate is exempt? If you take to the question, please turn the rays of the ever brilliant SUN upon it, dispel the mists and fog and brighten and enlarge the area of the suggestion. Yours for true Democracy,

WATERTOWN, N. Y.

E. A. HOLBROOK. by the State as real estate at so much per mile,

It is impossible to separate the part played by it from the part played by the cars and locomotives. Any income tax on dividends from railway stocks is vitiated by the revenue from land mixed up in them, which is constitutionally beyond the reach of the Income Tax law.

### GILROY AND TRACY CAN'T SERVE. Only Franklin Edson Left to Take Lands for

Jorome Park Reservoir. When the commission of appraisal and assesament for taking lands for the Jerome Park reservoir were to have met in the Comptroller's office yesterday to organize only one Commissioner, Franklin Edson, was on hand. Resignations were received from ex-Mayor Gilroy and Gen. B. F. Tracy. Mr. Gilroy's letter was dated March 9, at Rome. He gave the serious fliness of his wife as his reason for resigning. Gen. Tracy stated in his letter that he was ill and included going to Europe. Gen. Tracy sailed two weeks ago, and is expected to remain abroad all summer.

summer.

Mr. Edson announced that he should apply to
the Supreme Court of Westchester county for
the appointment of two new colleagues, and he
set May 10 as the date for the meeting to or-

# OPIUM FIENDS IN CONVENTION.

They Meet to Oppose a Bill Pending in the Massachusetts Legislature. From the Boston Herald.

From the Boston Herald.

Fully 300 Chinese opium smokers, representing New England, assembled themselves at 24 Oxford street last Friday night for the purpose of finding ways to stop the Quinn bill, which is now pending before the General Assembly. The meeting commenced at 8 o'clock and lasted until after midnight. Every member seemed to be talking at the same time, and consequently there seemed to be more speakers than listeners. Resolutions were passed that a petition be sent to the Assembly asking that if Mr. Quinn wanted a bill to pass against the smoking of oplum, an exception be made in favor of the Chinese communities.

hinese communities, "There is no man under God's creation that

Chinese communities.

"There is no man under God's creation that knows the hardships which smokers endure," said one of the delegates from Hartford. "If Mr. Quinn is an intelligent and free-minded gentleman, he should take conscientious consideration before he made such a law as would stop a person from smoking when the smoker has had the habit for thirty long years."

"We are bound to smoke, anyhow, whether we have the right or take it for granted," said another smoker from Providence, R. I. "We committed the sin before the law was made, and we are compelled to sin after the law is made. We must either sin or we must stop living."

The most interesting remarks throughout the meeting were made by Li Sam, who came to the Convention as a representative from Nov Hedford. He said: "People who do not smoke will never know a smoker's troubles. I had the habit grow into me for the past thirty-seven long years. I have tried and tried again to stop smoking, but my strength failed me. At last I gathered up my nerve to try again for the last time. I decided if I failed to do what I pledged, I would—die a fiend. Two weeks ago to-day I stopped smoking for twenty-four hours. My dear fellow men, there are not enough words in Confucius's dictionary to tell you how I felt. I had rather have all the devils in the great hell torment me than to take the right of smoking away from me. We smoking men do not ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask the people to encourage us, but we would ask

## Bluffers Called Down by His Honor.

Prom the Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean,
CINCINNATI, April 13.—Probate Judge Ferris today effectually suppressed the spirit of riot in
his court room. Two attorneys became personal
in their remarks before the Court, and one invited the other "outside." The Judge at once
stopped business and said: "If you men really
want to scrap, have it out here. I'll not take
judicial notice of it." Afterward the Judge
said: "That is the only way to cure these boasters, who are always talking about what they will ers, who are always talking about what they will do on the outside. An invitation to have it out right now invariably cools them down."

#### Where Women Earn More Than Men. From the Chicago Paily Tribune.

Pittssuegu, Pa., April 12.-Half a dozen Weish women began work this week in the rolling mil of the Monongahela Tinplate Works on the South Side. They receive the plates as they come rom the rolls and separate the black sheets. This work heretofore has been done wholly by men It is hard and rough. The women wear great leather shields on their hands, leather aprons, and hob-nailed shoes to protect them from the heat and metal. Toe women are paid \$1.50 a day. Men received for the ame work \$1.35. The forewoman gets \$1.75. This is he first time women have been employed at such work in this country.

#### Macterlinck's Conception of the Actor. From the Sketch.

"I regard originality as being the last quality to be applauded in an actor or an actress. The interpreters f a drama should be average, and even mediocre, nen and women, only intelligent enough to realize those characters they are attempting to make live. Perhaps I should add that I do not expect any of the aind of dramatic work which we are now discussing to ever appeal to the great play-going public."

## Can It Be Possible !

From the Kansas City Journal, Mrs. Lease swore. She used cuss words. She ex-pressed herself in language more forcible than ciogant. This is the melancholy burden of the wires in telling the story of the investigation of Capt. Wait of the State Board of Charities. One of the witnesses swore that Mrs. Lease applied to Capt. Wait the vigor ous and also opprobrious epithet of "devilish old

## The Postage Stamp Test.

About the only way to tell the counterfeit postage stamps from the genuine article manufactured by the Government is to moisten the gum and place the sam-ple on the upper right hand corner of the cavelope. If it aticks it is a counterfeit.

## Why In It, Indeed?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-SEC. Why is it, physiclogically, anatomically, or hygienically, that men become baid on the head where the hair grows, and not on the face where the whiskers grow? Is it that whiskers are not hair? Anxious Inquinea. Brookta's, April 10.

# The Search for Lost Belatives.

To the Platon of The Ses-Sir: Seeing in The Ses an account of your success in bringing stranded relatives together I thought you might be able to trace my relatives. I am a New York bey myself, but left there your young. I was left without a father at about the age of four dynars. I was then placed in the Christian Hrothers Protectory at Westchesier for about two or three years. I was then transferred to Randall's island. From there I was sent to Vignila. I had some constast in New York at that time, living on fairty fourth street, between Piess and Second avenues. Their names are respectively John, William, and James Friery, also a seter by the name of Emma Loutse Mediulien, of whom I would like to hear. Withing you lines in your undertasting, if you are obliging shough to try it.

Denard, Amelia county, Va. tives together I thought you might be able to trace my

From the Chicago Indig Tribuse,
"Walter," said the guest, "I wish you'd ask the
proprietors to turn on a little more light. It's so dark in here I can't a ... or a paper of pine. He Wasn't, fully ! n here I can't teil whether I'm eating planked shad

Tran the Chingo Dolly Tebane.
"You oppose every inovement of woman in poli-tics," raid the fair lobbyist, "and you speak succeing F of the 'new woman.' Are you a missgynist ?" "'M-no." replied the Representative from Egypt. scratching his chin. "I'm a bimetallist."

hy trifling with a cold, many a one allows himself to drift into a condition (avorable to the devel opment of some latent disease, which thereafter takes full pos-session of the aystem. Better cure your Cold at one with Dr. D. Jayne's Expectoran, a good remady for Throat-all and Lung affections.— Add.